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**Health Care & Wellness  
Committee**

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**HB 1456**

**Brief Description:** Providing backup for mental health professionals doing home visits.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Hinkle, Appleton, Cody, Moeller, Strow, Crouse, Curtis, Seaquist, Jarrett, Hasegawa, Walsh, P. Sullivan, Buri, Simpson, O'Brien, Lantz, Hunt, McDonald, Sells, Schual-Berke, Linville, Kessler, Hankins, Haler, Skinner, Campbell, Morrell, Darneille, Armstrong, Dunshee, Fromhold, Kagi, Williams, Conway, Barlow, Grant, Priest, Dunn, Hunter, Hurst, Ericks, Pearson, Anderson, Clibborn, Pettigrew, Flannigan, Lovick, Dickerson, Kenney, Ormsby, Haigh, Wood, Rolfes, Santos and McDermott.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Mental health professionals will not be required to conduct home visits alone, and will be given resources to lessen the danger of home visits.

**Hearing Date:** 2/12/07

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

There are designated mental health professionals (DMHPs) who perform initial evaluations and detentions pursuant to the involuntary commitment statutes and provide crisis outreach services for individuals with mental disorders. These DMHPs occasionally evaluate people for involuntary detention or provide crisis outreach services in the homes of individuals with mental disorders.

**Summary of Bill:**

No DMHP or other mental health crisis outreach worker will be required to conduct home visits alone. Employers will equip mental health workers who engage in home visits with a communication device. Mental health workers dispatched on crisis outreach visits will have prompt access to any history of dangerousness or potential dangerousness on the client they are

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visiting, if available. All community mental health workers who work directly with clients will be provided with annual training on safety and violence prevention.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 9, 2007.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.